

NEWS RELEASE



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OPERATION SMACK DOWN LEADS TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

Drug ring dismantled

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that seven members of a drug ring operating in the Lafayette, Louisiana area were arrested last month and now face federal drug charges. An eighth member remains at large.

The arrests are the result of investigations initiated by Lafayette Metro Narcotics in 2002. The investigation soon led to a federal investigation of a major drug distribution and trafficking conspiracy under a drug task force operation called “Operation Smack Down.” Involved in the arrests were Lafayette Metro Narcotics, Drug Enforcement Administration and its Task Force Officers, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louisiana State Police, Lafayette City Police Department, Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office, and the Broussard Police Department.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated, “Operation Smack Down is yet another example of our vigorous

efforts to dismantle drug trafficking organizations. If proven guilty, these drug traffickers are likely to spend many years behind prison bars. We are grateful for the efforts of the investigation and prosecution team, which led to the arrest of Mr. Leday and his associates.”

A three-count indictment was handed down by a federal grand jury in March 2006 charging the defendants with one count of conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine and cocaine base and two counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Below is a list of the defendants arrested. One individual, Jonathan J. Winters, is a fugitives and a warrant is outstanding for his arrest.

NAME	AGE	HOMETOWN
PERRY LEDAY	44	Carencro, LA
TELLIS VALLIER	31	Broussard, LA
JESSIE H. ALFRED JR.	29	Missouri City, TX
A. ALLEN RICHARD, JR.	30	Lafayette, LA
CHAD ZENO	30	Missouri City, TX
JAMES JOSEPH	24	Houston, TX
TROY BOUDREAUX	29	Lafayette, LA
FUGITIVE		
JONATHAN J. WINTERS	35	Stafford, TX

The indictment alleges that the defendants distributed 5 kilograms or more of cocaine and 50 grams or more of cocaine base. The cocaine was transported from Texas to locations in Louisiana and elsewhere within the United States. The drug ring operated from approximately 1991 through February 2006 and generated over approximately \$1,000,000 in drug proceeds during the course of the conspiracy.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. If convicted, all federal defendants face a maximum penalty of life imprisonment because they are alleged to have conspired to possess or distribute, or possessed or distributed 50 grams or more of crack

cocaine. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission may only be used as guidelines by the judge. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Todd Clemons.

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